This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

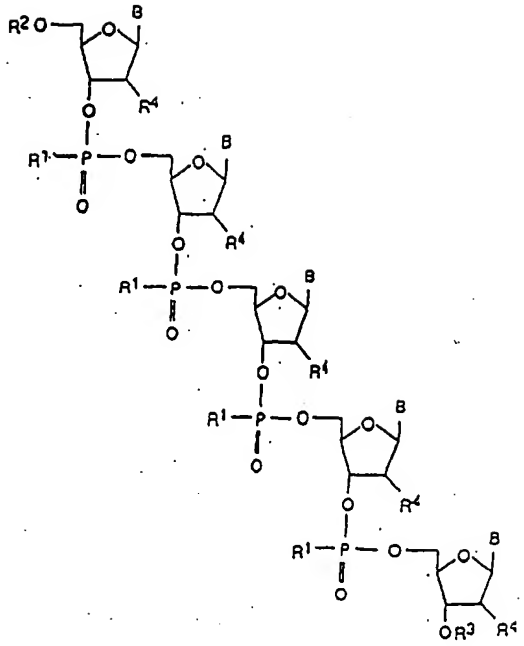
In the Claims:

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An antisense oligonucleotide selected from the group consisting of [[-]] the sequence 5′- TTG CAT AAA CCC AAG GAG – 3' (SEQ ID NO: 1) and modifications thereof, and a [[-]] fragment having at least 8 nucleotides of the sequence 5′- TTG CAT AAA CCC AAG GAG – 3' (SEQ ID NO: 1) and modifications thereof.

2. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The antisense-oligonucleotide according to claim 1 wherein the modification ~~concerns one or more of the sugar moieties, the bases and/or the internucleotide linkages and/or~~ comprises a modified sugar moiety, a modified base, a modified internucleotide linkage, ~~and/or~~ coupling the oligonucleotide to an enhancer of uptake and/or inhibitory activity, and combinations thereof.

3. (ORIGINAL) The antisense-oligonucleotide according to claim 2 wherein the antisense-oligonucleotide is a phosphorothioate oligodeoxynucleotide.

4. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The antisense-oligonucleotides according to claim 1 with the ~~respective~~ structure:



wherein

[[-]] B = the bases A, C, G or T in oligodeoxy-ribonucleotides or ~~accordingly~~ the bases A, C, G or U in oligo-ribonucleotides;

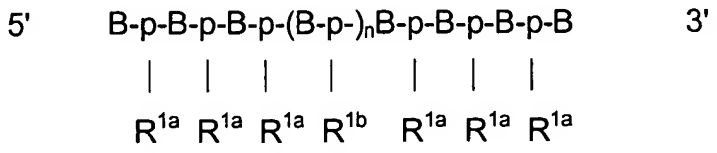
[[-]] $R^1 = O^-M^+$ ($M^+ = Na^+$ or H^+), S^-M^+ ($M^+ = Na^+$ or H^+), CH_3, C_2H_5, OCH_3, or OC_2H_5;

[[-]] R^2 and/or R^3 are covalently coupled cholesterol, poly(L)lysine, transferrin or H;

[[-]] R^4 = H, F, CH_3, C_2H_5, OH, OCH_3, or OC_2H_5;

~~and~~ wherein the structure is ~~to be understood as a detail out~~ a representation of a longer nucleotide chain.

5. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The aAntisense oligonucleotides according to claim 1 with the formula



wherein

B = the bases A, C, G or T in oligodeoxy-ribonucleotides, or ~~accordingly~~ the bases A, C, G or U in oligo-ribonucleotides;

p = internucleotide phosphate;

$(B\text{-}p\text{-})_n$ = an oligodeoxy-ribonucleotide or oligo-ribonucleotide stretch wherein

n= 1 – 12~~, preferably 1-11~~;

and wherein R^1, ~~referred to as~~ encompassing R^{1a} or R^{1b}, is varied at the internucleotide phosphates within one oligonucleotide[[:]] wherein

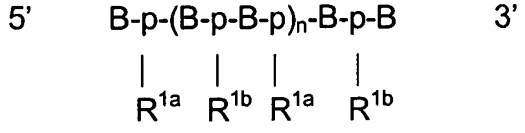
$R^{1a}= S^-M^+$, wherein all M^+ is Na^+ or H^+ and $R^{1b} = O^-M^+$, wherein all M^+ is Na^+ or H^+; or

$R^{1a}= CH_3$ and $R^{1b}= O^-M^+$, wherein all M^+ is Na^+ or H^+; or

$R^{1a}= S^-M^+$, wherein all M^+ is Na^+ or H^+S and $R^{1b}= CH_3$; or

$R^{1a}= CH_3$ and $R^{1b}= S^-M^+$, wherein all M^+ is Na^+ or H^+.

6. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The aAntisense oligonucleotides according to claim 1 with the formula



wherein

B = one of the bases A, C, G or T ~~comprised~~ in oligodeoxy-ribonucleotides or ~~accordingly~~ one of the bases A, C, G or U ~~comprised~~ in oligo-ribonucleotides depending on a gene sequence;

p = internucleotide phosphate;

$(B\text{-}p\text{-}B\text{-}p)_n$ = an oligodeoxy-ribonucleotide or oligo-ribonucleotide stretch wherein n= 2 – 8~~, preferably 3-7~~;

and wherein R^1 is alternated at the internucleotide phosphates within one oligonucleotide[[:]] wherein

R^{1a}= S^-M^+, wherein all M^+ is Na^+ or H^+ and R^{1b} = O^-M^+, wherein all M^+ is Na^+ or H^+; or

R^{1a}= CH_3 and R^{1b}= O^-M^+, wherein all M^+ is Na^+ or H^+; or

R^{1a}= S^-M^+, wherein all M^+ is Na^+or H^+S and R^{1b}= CH_3.

7. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) Use of the antisense-oligonucleotides according to claim 1 for at least one of the inhibition of expression and/or functional activity of melanoma inhibitory activity (MIA), ~~and/or~~ reducing invasion and/or metastasis, ~~and/or~~ or stimulating immune cells and/or the immune system.

8. (ORIGINAL) A pharmaceutical composition comprising an antisense-oligonucleotide according to claim 1.

9. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 8 wherein the antisense-oligonucleotide is integrated into a DNA delivery system comprising viral and/or non-viral vectors together with lipid acids or derivatives thereof selected from the group consisting of anionic lipids, cationic lipids, non-cationic lipids, and mixtures thereof.

10. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 8 further comprising ~~additionally~~ an immunostimulatory agent.

11. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 10 wherein the ~~additionally~~ immunostimulatory agent is selected from the group consisting of cytokines, inhibitors of expression and/or function of interleukin-10, inhibitors of expression and/or function of transforming growth factor beta (TGF-ß), inhibitors of expression and/or function of Prostaglandin B2, inhibitors of expression and/or function of receptors for Prostaglandin E2, ~~and/or~~ inhibitors of VEGF, and combinations thereof.

12. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The use of the pharmaceutical composition according to ~~one of the claims 8-11~~ claim 8 in a method for the ~~preparation of a medicament~~ prevention and/or the treatment of at least one of neoplasms, infections, or immunosuppressive disorders.

13. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The use of the pharmaceutical composition according to ~~one of the claims 8-11~~ claim 8 in a method for the ~~preparation of a medicament~~ prevention and/or the treatment of at least one disorder[[s]], neoplasm[[s]], infection[[s]], ~~and/or~~ or immunosuppressive disorder[[s]] ~~where an~~ wherein abnormal expression of MIA plays a role in the disorder, neoplasm, infection, or immunosuppressive disorder.

14. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The use of the pharmaceutical composition according to ~~the claims 8-11~~ claim 8 in a method for the ~~preparation of a medicament~~ prevention

[[or]] and/or the treatment of neoplasms and/or disorders selected from the group consisting of melanoma, gastrointestinal carcinoma, breast cancer, pancreatic cancer, [[ovarial]] ovarian carcinoma, chondrosarcoma, spinal diseases, cervical myelopathy, lumbar canal stenosis, lumbar disc herniation, rheumatoid arthritis, osteoarthritis, HLA-27-asscociated oligoarthritis, psoriatic arthritis, [[and]] rheumatic arthritis, cartilage damage, [[or]] joint destruction, and combinations thereof.

15. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A diagnostic composition comprising an antisense-oligonucleotide according to ~~one of the claims 1-7~~ either claim 1 or claim 2.

16. (NEW) The composition of claim 5 wherein $(B\text{-}p\text{-})_n$ = an oligodeoxy-ribonucleotide or oligo-ribonucleotide stretch wherein n= 1 – 11.

17. (NEW) The composition of claim 6 wherein $(B\text{-}p\text{-}B\text{-}p)_n$ = an oligodeoxy-ribonucleotide or oligo-ribonucleotide stretch wherein n= 3 – 7.